Chayahuita language

Chayahuita is an endangered Amazonian language spoken by thousands of native Chayahuita people in the Amazon basin of north-central Peru. Spoken along the banks of the Paranapura, Cahuapanas, Sillay, and Shanusi rivers, it is also known as Chayawita, Shawi, Chawi, Tshaahui, Chayhuita, Chayabita, Shayabit, Balsapuertino, Paranapura, and Cahuapa. There is a 1–5% literacy rate, compared with 5–15% for Spanish, and a dictionary since 1978. It can not be understood by Jebero speakers although there is some overlap in vocabulary, especially some Quechua terms.

Chayahuita	
Cahuapana	
Shawi	
Native to	Peru
Ethnicity	21,400 (2011)
Native speakers	14,000 (2011)[1]
Language family	Cahuapanan ▪ **Chayahuita**
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	cbt
Glottolog	chay1248 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/chay1248)[2]

Phonology

There are 4 vowels: /a, i, ɨ, u/.[3]

Consonants

	Bilabial	Alveolar	Postalveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Stop	p	t			k	ʔ
Affricate			t͡ʃ			
Fricative	β	s	ʃ			h
Nasal	m	n				
Approximant				j	w	
Flap		ɾ				

Vocabulary

Selected Shawi animal names from Rojas-Berscia (2019):[4]

Selected animal names

Common name	Scientific name	Shawi
possum	*Didelphis marsupialis*	anashi
lowland paca	*Cuniculus paca*	ipi'
red squirrel	*Sciurus spadiceus*	pu'shi
bicolor porcupine	*Coendou bicolor*	sese
common rat	*Rattus norvegicus*	shumi
agouti	*Dasyprocta punctata*	ite'
capybara	*Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris*	tucusu'
pichico monkey	*Saguinus fuscicollis*	ishi'
Amazon condor	*Sarcoramphus papa*	tame
silver mylossoma	*Metynnis argenteus*	shite'
black prochilodus	*Prochilodus nigricans*	wanki
armored catfish	*Pseudorinelepis genibarbis*	warate'
wolf fish	*Hoplias malabaricus*	a'nanan
peccary	*Pecari tajacu*	kiraman
jaguar	*Panthera onca*	ni'ni'
tapir	*Tapirus terrestris*	pawara
giant otter	*Pteronura brasiliensis*	ini'
ringtail coati	*Potos flavus*	kuwasha'
black-headed night monkey	*Alouatta seniculus*	nu'nu'
yellow-tailed woolly monkey	*Oreonax flavicauda*	sura'
squirrel monkey	*Saimiri sciureus*	isen
bald uakari	*Cacajao calvus*	tekerenan
owl monkey	*Aotus miconax*	kuwi
spider monkey	*Ateles belzebuth*	tu'ya
pink dolphin	*Inia geoffrensis*	sapana'
shusupe	*Lachesis muta*	na'shi
common lancehead	*Bothrops atrox*	tayuwan
boa	*Boa constrictor*	kupiwan

References

1. "Shawi" (https://www.ethnologue.com/language/cbt). *Ethnologue*. Retrieved 2018-07-23.
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Shawi" (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/chay1248). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. "SAPhon – South American Phonological Inventories" (http://linguistics.berkeley.edu/~saphon). *linguistics.berkeley.edu*. Retrieved 2018-07-23.
4. Rojas-Berscia, Luis Miguel. 2019. *From Kawapanan to Shawi: Topics in language variation and change (http://hdl.handle.net/21.11116/0000-0003-21A5-D)*. Doctoral dissertation,

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This page was last edited on 19 May 2020, at 10:22 (UTC).

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